

In the Abstract:

Please amend the paragraph at page 32, lines 2 to 22 as follows:

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Image data of optically acquired input images (1) are processed for emphasizing at least ~~one~~ two object class. ~~First each classes.~~ Each pixel point is subjected to a rough classification (10) based on ~~given~~ first criteria that determine whether or not a pixel point is relevant for an object recognition. A reduced image (11) is formed from the relevant ~~pixel points while the~~ pixels and irrelevant pixels are omitted. The reduced image (11) is filtered (20) for forming at least two correlated ~~filter~~ filtered images (21, 22, 23) based on ~~given~~ second criteria. ~~Image components relevant for object recognition and the mutual allocation of these image components are retained in the filter images.~~ Then, ~~classification~~ Classified images (31A, 32A, 33A) are formed from the ~~filter~~ filtered images by classifiers that work in accordance with predetermined rules. ~~Evaluation numbers or weighting~~ Weighting factors are allocated to each object class. Then, ~~the classification~~ The classified images are merged ~~or fused~~ (40) in accordance with an algorithm to ~~form~~ make a combined global ~~decision or global~~ evaluation for each object class. The global ~~decision or~~ evaluation decides, based on the merged images (41A, 41B, 41C), ~~for each pixel point of the reduced image (11)~~ whether the respective pixel point belongs to an object class and if so to which object class.